

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01467 120835Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 120732Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5563
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 1467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: MASS, IR, MO, JO
SUBJECT: WEAPONS FOR MOROCCO

REF: TEHRAN 1267

1. WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY SPOKE WITH ME ON FEBRUARY 8 ABOUT SHOPPING LIST OF ARMS FOR MOROCCO, I VENTURED THE PERSONAL AND INFORMAL OPINION THAT USG MIGHT NOT BE TOO SYMPATHETIC ABOUT THIS ARMS TRANSFER PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL MOOD. THIS OPINION OF MINE WAS APPARENTLY CONVEYED TO THE SHAH, BECAUCSE THIS MORNING(FEBRUARY 12) MINISTER OF COURT ALAM TOLD ME THAT THE SHAH WAS DISBUNCTLY WORRIED ABOUT THE MOOD IN LASHINGTON AS ALLEGED OR DESCRIBED BY ME. HE ASKED ALAM TO MAKE THE POINT STRNGLY TO ME THAT HE FEELS IT IS "OUR DUTY"(THAT OF BOTH US AND IRAN) TO HELP MOROCCO STAVE OFF FORCES BACKED BY ALERIA WHICH HAS BEEN "ARMED TO THE TEETH" BY THE SOVIETS. THE SHAH REGARDS THIS ARMS TRANSFER AS A MOST SERIOUS AND URGENT PROBLEM. AS DESCRIBED BY ALAM, HE SEES THE SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE AS POSSIBLY DEVELOPING"INTO ANOTHER ANGOLA". THE ESTIMATES THAT ALGERIA WILL NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT AT THE HAMDS OF THE MOROCANS, CONSEQUENTLY KING HASSAN MAY BE IN FOR ANOTHER BRUISING WITH ALL THAT THAT MAY ENTAIL.

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2. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM HIMSELF TALKED WITH THE MOROCCAN

MINISTER OF COURT AND THE AIR FORCE OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, IDENTIFIED AS "THE PILOT WHO SAVED KING HASSAN'S LIFE". ALAM SAID THE MOROCCANS WERE MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION NOW THAN THEY WERE WHEN HE WAS IN RABAT ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO. HE SAID THAT AT THAT TIME THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT AN ALGERIAN ATTACK BUT THAT KING HASSAN SEEMED QUITE RELAXED AND CONFIDENT ABOUT THE SITUATION. NOW THE KING HAS ALSO BECOME WORRIED, HENCE THIS MOROCCAN APPROACH TO THE IRANIANS AND JORDANIANS.
HELMS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN01467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760053-0497
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760253/aaaaburx.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 1267
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEAPONS FOR MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, IR, MO, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006